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acquired characters by them are also discussed in detail with reference to recent observations.

— We learn from *Nature* that Mr. R. H. Scott has contributed an article entitled "Notes on the Climate of the British Isles," to *Longman's Magazine*. The author gives some amusing instances of the distortion of facts at seaside stations, where the observers are anxious to prove the advantages of their own towns over those of their rivals. Taking the whole year round, the warmest spot is the Scilly Isles, which are a degree warmer than either the west of Cornwall or the Channel Islands; while the coldest region on the coast is the extreme north-east of Aberdeenshire. In winter very little difference of temperature is met with all along the east coast; but the coldest part of England lies round the Wash. With regard to the variability of temperature, or the difference of the mean temperature of an entire day, the equability of the temperature of these islands is very great. The only locality for which a more uniform temperature has yet been published is Georgetown, Demerara; the figure for this place is  $1.1^{\circ}$ , while for London is  $2.7^{\circ}$ . All the great changes of temperature occur in winter, and accompany sudden thaws. As regards bright sunshine, the Channel Islands are by far the most favored. On the mean of the whole year Jersey secures 39 per cent; but from the Bristol Channel to the coast of Norfolk there is but little difference in the amounts recorded. In cities like London the deficiency is due to smoke. The statistics relating to fog are not

yet completely discussed, but so far as they go they show that in winter the foggiest district is the east coast of England. Next come London and Oxford, which are about equal. With regard to rainfall the east coast stations receive on an average of the whole year about half as much as those on the west coast, the amount being about 25 inches on the east coast, 30 to 40 inches between Sussex and Devonshire, and fifty inches to the south of Cornwall. In the west of Ireland the amount rises to 70 or 80 inches, owing to high land near the coast. The driest hour almost everywhere is noon.

— No document can give a better account of an Indian's acts or mode of thinking than a document composed by himself and put down correctly in his own words and language. In describing Indian feats of war, council debates, or stories, the author of the white race feels perfectly dwarfed when he compares his account to the phraseology of the Indian, who, with a few powerful strokes of the tongue, tells us much more accurately and forcibly what he intends to convey to our minds about his people. The numerous myths, stories, and historic recitals published in James A. Dorsey's new volume ("The Dhegiha Language," 18 and 794 pp., Washington, 1890, quarto) will fully bear out this statement. The author has made accessible to us the Omaha and Ponka language, not only by publishing the Indian texts as dictated to him by the natives and adding to them a readable English translation, but he has also subjoined an interlinear translation for each Indian

#### Publications Received at Editor's Office.

- DOLBEAR, A. E. Matter, Ether and Motion. Boston, Lee & Shepard. 12°. 342 p. \$1.75.  
FLETCHER, L. The Optical Indicatrix. London, Henry Frowde. New York, Macmillan & Co. 8°. 124 p.  
HATCH, F. H. Mineralogy. London, Whittaker & Co. 12°. 132 p. \$1.  
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN. Annual Report, 1892. The Trustees. 8°. 170 p.  
TROY, DANIEL S. The Value of Money. Montgomery, Ala., Brown Printing Co. 8°. Paper. 26 p.  
YEAR-BOOK of the Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland. London, Charles Griffin & Co. 8°. 239 p.

#### Societas Entomologica.

International Entomological Society, Zurich-Hottingen, Switzerland.

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The new volume began April 1, 1892. The numbers already issued will be sent to new members.

For information address Mr. FRITZ RUHL, President of the Societas Entomologica, Zurich-Hottingen, Switzerland.

#### NEO-DARWINISM AND NEO-LAMARCKISM.

By LESTER F. WARD.

Annual address of the President of the Biological Society of Washington delivered Jan. 24, 1891. A historical and critical review of modern scientific thought relative to heredity, and especially to the problem of the transmission of acquired characters. The following are the several heads involved in the discussion: Status of the Problem, Lamarckism, Darwinism, Acquired Characters, Theories of Heredity, Views of Mr. Galton, Teachings of Professor Weismann, A Critique of Weismann, Neo-Darwinism, Neo-Lamarckism, the American "School," Application to the Human Race. In so far as views are expressed they are in the main in line with the general current of American thought, and opposed to the extreme doctrine of the non-transmissibility of acquired characters.

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To exchange Wright's "Ice Age in North America" and Le Conte's "Elements of Geology" (Copyright 1882) for "Darwinism," by A. R. Wallace, "Origin of Species," by Darwin, "Descent of Man," by Darwin, "Man's Place in Nature," Huxley, "Mental Evolution in Animals," by Romanes, "Pre-Adamites," by Winchell. No books wanted except latest editions, and books in good condition. C. S. Brown, Jr., Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

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word, as it occurs in the sentence. This enables us to study that dialect with comparative ease, and opens to us the innermost soul-life, the very fabric of Indian thought, by the disclosure of the grammatic elements. To these Indians, the categories of number and tense are not very material, and that of sex is never marked as such; but it is quite important to them whether the object spoken of or the acting subject is visible or invisible, close by, further off, or at a great distance. It matters little to these Indians of what special appearance the subject or object is, but they have to express with accuracy, whether it was standing or sitting, reclining or stretched out, acting on purpose or without purpose, and whether those acting were acting singly, in a small body, or in a crowd. Whether a story-teller is relating a fact from his own knowledge or from hearsay, has to be distinctly stated in every one of his sentences, and from the term here used it also becomes apparent whether he has heard the statement from one person or from several authorities. Although Dorsey's contributors have related to him many tribal events which we would call traditional history, we feel in reading them that they are based

on historical facts and truly Indian sociological conditions, and, as such, are just as valuable to us as many facts recorded by official historiographers of the white race. What we need for their understanding is a profound and not a desultory study of these and other Indian pieces of oral literature. Students to whom the volume has not been sent should apply for it to the member of their congressional constituency.

— The following are from the table of contents of the July number of *The Chautauquan*: Overland by the Southern Pacific, by Fannie C. W. Barbour; Hay Fever as an Idiosyncrasy, by J. M. Cooper, M.D.; In the Snake River Valley, Part II., by John R. Spears; Historic Quebec, by Edith Sessions Tupper; Summer Vacations and Physical Culture, by J. M. Buckley; The Beginnings and Endings of Centuries, by Count Charles de Mouy; Some American Chemists, by Marcus Benjamin; The Great Exposition at Chicago, by Noble Canby; Why American Children are Nervous, by Mrs. L. E. Chittenden; Marriage in Nanking, by Harriet Linn Beebe.

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### Titles of Some Articles Published in *Science* since Jan. 1, 1892.

Aboriginal North American Tea.  
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Arsenical Poisoning from Domestic Fabrics.  
Anatomy, The Teaching of, to Advanced Medical Students.  
Astronomical Notes.  
Botanical Laboratory, A.  
Brain, A Few Characteristics of the Avian.  
Celts, The Question of the.  
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Deaf, Higher Education of the.  
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Infant's Movements.  
Inventors and Manufacturers, the American Association of.  
Iowa Academy of Sciences.  
Jargon, The Chinook.  
Klamath Nation, Linguistics.  
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Lissajou's Curves, Simple Apparatus for the Production of.  
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Mineral Discoveries, Some Recent, in the State of Washington.  
Museums, The Support of.  
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Pocket Gopher, Attempted Extermination of.  
Psychological Laboratory in the University of Toronto.  
Psychological Training, The Need of.  
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Rivers, Evolution of the Loup, in Nebraska.  
Scientific Alliance, The.  
Star, The New, in Auriga.  
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